

Letters to the Editor

Regarding your recent article on the manufacture of modems in Australia and how the industry is booming when Telecom brings in timed or metered calls. What effect will this have on the private sector of the market? I myself run a 300 Baud moden on the Mac-Board, usually 5 or 6 times a week, for about 20 minutes or so per call. At 20 cents per call that's not really bad, but with metered calls the price will skyrocket. Won't this slow

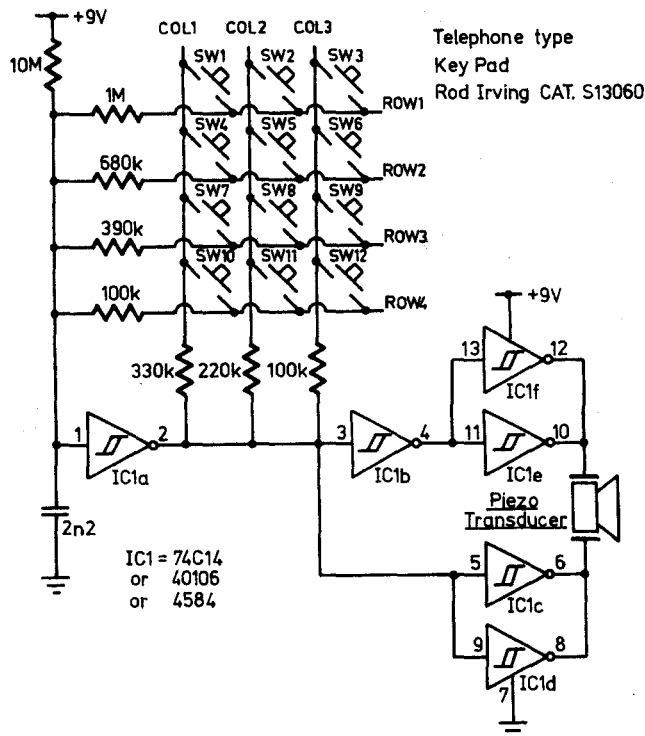
the current selling of modems, since the cost of running them will become prohibitive in the long run.

Kendall Bennet
Kew, Vic

You should have a regular listing of IBM PC compatible games and prices as it is very hard to come by them.

Michael Dweson
Waramanga, NSW

Almost any PC store will be able to assist you — ED.

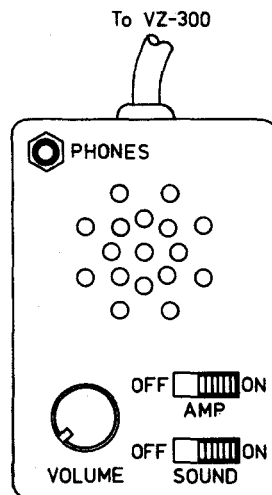
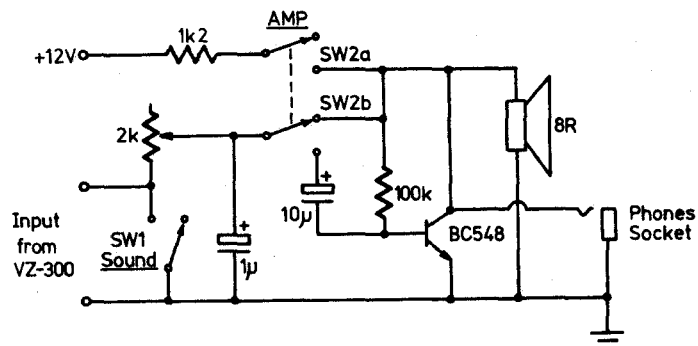


Childs Toy Organ

This circuit will fit into the smallest sized plastic jiffy box. Pressing switches 1 through to 12 causes the resistance between pins 1 and 2 of IC1a to go from 1M33 to 200k in 1200k steps (approx). This causes IC1a to oscillate at 12 different frequencies. The rest of the gates are arranged to drive the transducer in push-Pull. The 10M resistor holds pin 1 high

when no switch is pressed. With no switch pressed there is no current flowing through any of the resistors so the circuit does not need an on-off switch. With different brands of ICs the range of sounds may not be suitable so the capacitor can be changed to suit.

Lindsay Kater,
Laverton Vic



VZ Amp

One of the main downfalls of the VZ300 is its inferior sound, which is brought about by the inefficiency of the piezo-electric speaker included in the unit.

It is for this reason that I have designed a circuit to replace the piezo speaker with a magnetic one and include other features such as an amplifier and volume controls.

The volume and sound on/off controls run directly from the supply used for the piezo but the amplifier needs a 12 V supply which is taken from the input socket for the transformer. I cut the wires from the piezo and removed the monitor socket (because I'm using the TV socket), and installed a 6.5 mm stereo socket in its place. This socket must be stereo because it has to handle the two connections from the piezo and the supply rail. It is essential to check with a mul-

timeter for the polarity of the speaker before cutting it and connecting it to the socket.

I used figure-eight shielded cable to connect the computer to the enhancer mainly because of the three individual connections. The sound can be turned off when you are doing a lot of typing, eg word processing, so you are not annoyed by constant beeping. Headphones can be used when there are other people in the vicinity that do not want to be disturbed.

Switch 1 (sound) is used to turn the sound on/off which it does by either creating a short circuit in parallel to the speaker or opening this short circuit. Switch 2 (amp) is a double pole to switch both the amplifier circuit and to turn on the power to this section.

Steven Merrifield
Newlyn North Vic